

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 MC-02 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02  
CU-02 OES-07 DHA-02 COME-00 SCA-01 CEA-01 /088 W  
-----271738Z 083954 /42

R 271430Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2785  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRAGUE 1427

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SCUL, SHUM, CZ, CSCE, PINS  
SUBJECT: US ARMS SALES POLICY AND REVIEW OF US-GOC BILATERAL  
PROBLEMS

1. SUMMARY: WE DELIVERED PRESIDENT'S ARMS SALES STATEMENT TO  
FOREIGN MINISTRY MAY 23. IN DOING SO, WE BRIEFLY REVIEWED  
BILATERAL PROBLEMS RELATING TO CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES ACCORD,  
PRESS POLEMICS, FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES, AND POSSIBLE AMNESTY  
FOR CZECHOSLOVAK "ILLEGAL" IMIGRES. MFA INDICATED DESIRE TO MOVE  
AHEAD ON IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM FOR EXCHANGES AGREEMENT. END  
SUMMARY.

2. DCM CALLED ON MFA SIXTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR ZANTOVSKY MAY 23  
TO PRESENT TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S POLICY STATEMENT ON ARMS  
SALES. DCM DREW ON TALKING POINTS STATE 115244 IN NOTING US EFFORTS  
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TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF ARMS AND STRESSED IN PARTICULAR DESIRE OF  
USG FOR RESTRAINT BY OTHER ARMS-MANUFACTURING STATES, INCLUDING  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA. POINTING TO EXTENSIVE CZECH ARMS  
AID OVER THE YEARS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, DCM  
HOPED GOC WOULD CAREFULLY STUDY THE PRESIDENT'S  
STATEMENT. ZANTOVSKY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THIS  
US INITIATIVE AND PLEDGED TO BRING IT PROMPTLY TO

ATTENTION OF COMPETENT CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION OF THE GREATLY DIVERSIFIED CZECHOSLOVAK ECONOMY, INCLUDING AN ARMS INDUSTRY, ZANTOVSKY REGRETTED LACK OF SPECIALIZATION WHICH HINDERS CZECH EFFORTS TO DEVELOP COMPARATIVE INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADVANTAGES. HE TOOK A JAB AT US POLICIES "DURING THE COLD WAR," WHEN GOC WISHED TO DIVERSIFY AND THEREFORE CONTRACTED FOR A STEEL MILL FROM THE US, ONLY TO FIND IT LATER EXPROPRIATED. ZANTOVSKY SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO POLEMICIZE, BUT DEVELOPMENTS OF THIS SORT HAD OBLIGED CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO PRODUCE VIRTUALLY ALL ITS OWN NEEDS. DCM INDICATED HE ALSO WISHED TO AVOID POLEMICS AND THUS WOULD AVOID RECALLING THE PISODE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S INABILITY TO ACCEPT US ECONOMIC AID UNDER THE MARSHALL PLAN.

4. CANTOVSKY TURNED CONVERSATION TOWARD CURRENT STRAINS IN US-GOC RELATIONS. FOLLOWING UP ON THE SPACIL-ZANTOVSKY CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, REPORTED SEPARATELY, ON POSSIBILITY OF MOVING FORWARD IN DEVELOPING AN IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM FOR THE CULTURAL/EDUCATIONAL/SCIENTIFIC/TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED IN LATE 1976, HE RECOVERED MUCH OF THE SAME GROUND. HE CLAIMED CZECHOSLOVAKS HAD EXPECTED A SIGNAL FROM US SIDE WHEN IT WAS READY TO START TALKS ON AN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM. DCM DISPUTED THIS VIEW AND, NOTING HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE EXCHANGES  
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NEGOTIATIONS, RECALLED GOC REPS HAD ALWAYS INDICATED THAT THEIR SIDE WOULD REQUIRE "TWO OR THREE MONTH" TO APPROVE THE EXCHANGES ACCORD AND THAT AT SOME POINT ALONG THE LINE, THEY WOULD SIGNAL THEIR READINESS TO COMMENCE TALKS ON IMPLEMENTATION. IN FACT, NEARLY SIX MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED AND GOC HAS STILL NOT FORMALLY APPROVED THE AGREEMENT. CANTOVSKY THOUGHT THERE WAS UNFORTUNATE DIFFERENCE OF INTERPRETATION AS TO WHO WOULD GIVE A SIGNAL FIRST TO START WORK ON IMPLEMENTATION; IN ANY CASE, CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE HAD JUST DECIDED TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY IN NEXT FEW DAYS ON THIS MATTER. HE LEFT IMPRESSION GOC WOULD GIVE US A DRAFT PROGRAM.

5. ZANTOVSKY EMPHASIZED THIS GOC ACTION REFLECTED CZECHOSLOVAK DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH US. DCM THOUGHT A FURTHER USEFUL STEP WOULD BE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO MODERATE THE PERVASIVE ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA LINE IN CZECHOSLOVAK MEDIA--ESPECIALLY RECENT DIRECT ATTACKS ON PRESIDENT CARTER. ZANTOVSKY SAID CZECHOSLOVAKS VIEW THEIR MEDIA COMMENTARY ON US AS A COUNTER-ATTACK AGAINST STRONG US PRESS CRITICISM OF AMBASSADOR JOHANES

AND PRESIDENT HUSAK, GENERATED BY ALLEGATIONS OF THE EMIGREE FROLIK, AS WELL AS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S EXPLICIT STATEMENT JANUARY 26 OF GOC HANDLING OF THE CHARTER 77 GROUP. HE VIEWED UNENDING PRESS ATTACKS BY BOTH SIDES AS UNHELPFUL BUT THOUGHT THE BEST WAY TO END THEM WOULD BE THROUGH ACTIONS TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS--ACTIONS CAPABLE OF ELICITING POSITIVE PRESS REACTIONS.

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6. DCM ASKED WHETHER GOC WAS PREPARED TO TAKE ANY FURTHER STEPS FORWARD ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES; ACTION HERE MIGHT STIMULATE SOME POSITIVE US PRESS COMMENTARY. ZANTOVSKY WAS NONCOMMITTAL. HE NOTED EARLIER PROGRESS IN RESOLVING 13 OF 20 CASES INVOLVING REUNITING OF CHILDREN WITH FAMILIES IN US, BEFORE THE EAST-WEST DEBATE AROSE THIS SPRING OVER "SO-CALLED HUMAN RIGHTS," BUT SAID GOC ALWAYS DECIDED ON SUCH CASES IN LIGHT OF OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONS. DCM POINTED TO RECENT INDICATIONS BY MFA CONSULAR OFFICER TO EMBOFF (PRAGUE 1026) THAT GOC MIGHT GRANT AMNESTY TO FORMER CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS WHO HAD EMIGRATED AFTER THE EVENTS OF 1968 AND ASKED WHETHER ANY PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE ON AMNESTY PROGRAM. ZANTOVSKY INDICATED THE MATTER WAS UNDER ACTIVE STUDY. HE HAS ASKED MFA LEGAL ADVISORS TO DETERMINE THE IMPACT OF 1928 US-CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONALITY TREATY ON ANY FORTHCOMING AMNESTY.

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7. IN CONCLUDING THE MEETING, ZANTOVSKY AGAIN INDICATED GOC WOULD CONSIDER WITH INTEREST THE PRESIDENT'S ARMS SALES POLICY AND STRESSED THAT ACTIONS BY USG TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD FIND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY READY TO RECIPRO-CATE.

8. COMMENT: THIS WAS DCM'S FIRST CALL ON ZANTOVSKY SINCE HIS RECENT RETURN TO DUTY FROM EXTENDED INCAPACITATION DUE TO EYE INFECTION. ZANTOVSKY'S REMARKS REFLECT GROWING GOC CONCERN OVER US STALLING TACTICS ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS COMMENCEMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION TALKS CONCERNING EXCHANGES ACCORD AND ORGANIZATION OF VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY DEP FONMIN SPACIL--NOT TO MENTION THE CLAIMS/GOLD IMBROGLIO--DUE TO STRAINS STEMMING FROM OUT DIFFERING POSITIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. WE WILL BE ADDRESSING OUR POSITION ON MOVING AHEAD WITH THE CULTURAL"SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AGREEMENT IN SEPTTEL. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HERE, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF TRIAL AND IMPRISONMENT OF SOME CHARTER 77 ACTIVISTS, AND THE GENERAL ATTITUDE OF THE REGIME TOWARD THE UMS. AS REFLECTED IN PROPAGANDA ATTACKS UNDERLINES THE CORRECTNESS OF OUR CURRENT GO-SLOW APPROACH TOWARD NORMALIZING BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE SHOULD PUSH FOR IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS ONLY IN THOSE AREAS IN WHICH WE WILL CLEARLY ADVANCE U.S. INTERESTS, E.G., CLAIMS/GOLD.  
BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

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